THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Repair and maintenance of railway track in ail sections, is a continuous process. Maintenance works are carried out regularly depending upon the need for ensuring safety of traffic. Track is inspected regularly and corrective action taken promptly wherever required. Speed restrictions are also imposed for ensuring safety, if the situation so warrants. Track renewals are also undertaken depending upon the need of renewal and subject to availability of funds.

(b) and (c) The track renewals work done and expenditure incurred thereon, during the last three years, is as under:

Year	Track renewal done (in track kms)	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crore)
2001-02	3620	2462.92
2002-03	4776	3297.71
2003-04	4986	3484.39

Illegal railway ticketing

581. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the illegal ticketing agents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action being taken by Government to check illegal ticketing; and

(d) the losses being incurred by Government due to this per annum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Some cases of illegal ticketing by touts have been detected during the course of checks conducted by the Railways Action is taken against such persons as per provisions of the Railways Act, 1989.

(c) In order to curb the activities of illegal black marketing of rail tickets, joint checks are conducted involvinq Commercial, Vigilance and Police

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

personnel. In addition, during peak rush periods monitoring at important locations is also stepped up.

(d) There is no financial loss. However, it affects the Railways' image.

Arrears of expenditure on Railway Police by Maharashtra

582. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge recovery is pending as arrears of expenditure incurred on Railway Police by Maharashtra Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government would pay arrears to Maharashtra Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Claims amounting to Rs. 26.50 crore only are outstanding for want of Accountant Generals (AG)'s Certificate and operation of unsanctioned posts by the State of Maharashtra, etc.

(c) The Railways have standing instructions to pay all clearly admissible bills.

Sanction to Railway Police posts

† 583. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not accorded sanction to 76 Railway Police posts created by Government of Maharashtra for Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) by when the sanction would be granted for the said 76 posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) This *ex-post facto* sanction can not be given because of the fact that Maharashtra had increased the number of GRP personnel without the approval of the Railway Board.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.